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EASTERN

**F.O.
371**

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 48

pp. 9847 - 10593

**CLOSED
UNTIL
1978**

61831

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Reference

FO 371 / 61831

316

E

E 9847

2

1947

PALESTINE

22 OCT

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9847/48/21

U.K. Tel.
New York.1948 Savings
17.00
22 -

Illegal Immigration, Replied to note by
Refers New York Tel 12415 (E 7999/48/21)
How transmit list of replies from,
Czechoslovakia, Norway, Spain, Sweden
and Uruguay.

Last Paper.

9820

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61831

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 9901

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference

FO 371/61831

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F3

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 194 Saving

17th October, 1947

R. 21st October, 1947.

Repeated to Washington No. 2713 Saving
Jerusalem No. 3 Saving

GIANT

E. 9847

22 OCT

My telegram No. 124 Saving [of August 27th].

Palestine Immigration

Following is text of replies from Czechoslovakia, Norway, Siam, Sweden and Uruguay.

[Begins:]

Czechoslovakia:

"...the Czechoslovak Government, after due investigation, did not find any illegal influx into Palestine of Czechoslovak citizens. As far as citizens of other states, in transit through Czechoslovakia are concerned, it has not been possible to ascertain whether they were illegally bound for Palestine."

Norway

a) On 9th September 1947, the Norwegian permanent delegate to the United Nations transmitted a copy of a letter from the Norwegian Ministry of Justice to the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs concerning the question of illegal immigration of Jews. It reads as follows:

"Referring to letters of your Department of June 16th and July 10th, 1947 concerning the above-mentioned question, I have the honour to inform you that in the opinion of this Ministry the question concerns two categories of Jews:

1. Jews who are Norwegian citizens
2. Jews who have been specifically selected in Germany and granted permission to stay in this country (quota-Jews).

With regard to the Jews mentioned under point 1, it would not be necessary to take any special measures. These Jews are permitted to leave the country with an ordinary passport as all other Norwegian citizens.

With regard to those mentioned under point 2, these Jews will not be able to leave Norway without a special permit from the Central Passport Office. Such permits will, however, probably not be granted except for possible return to the camp and the zone in Germany from which they have come. This Ministry also supposes that the Ministry of Commerce will make an appeal to the organisations of

/shipowners

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b) In a letter dated 11th September 1947 addressed to the Secretary-General the Norwegian permanent delegate to the United Nations stated that

"In addition to my letter to you of September 9th and referring to your letter No. 801-14-6/DP, I have the honour to inform you that after having submitted your request to the Ministry of Justice, the Central Bureau of Employment and the Ministry of Commerce, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is of the opinion that your request does not necessitate any special measures as far as Norway is concerned.

The Central Bureau of Employment, however, draws the attention to the fact that recently a certain number of Jewish workers have been transferred from camps in Germany and Poland to Norway. As far as possible these Jewish workers will get employment in their respective occupations, settle in Norway and be granted Norwegian citizenship."

"The matter has duly been brought to the attention of my Government as requested and that as far as my government is concerned steps will be taken in accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly of 15th May 1947."

"I have called the attention of the competent Swedish authorities to the recommendations contained in your letter, and these authorities will endeavour to further this cause by available means. I will, however, already at this stage not refrain from mentioning that, in Sweden, there exists no law or order that forbids foreigners to depart from the country and that the possibility of keeping a vigilant watch over the illegal activity referred to in your letter is by this fact rendered difficult."

(A copy of a note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the British Embassy in Stockholm on this subject was enclosed).

"The information contained therein, has been transmitted to the corresponding agency of this Government."

[Ends]

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry

No. E9949/48/5

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

UKDEL
New York

Telegram.

No. 3709

(Date) Oct 29

Repeat to :—

High Commissioner
Palestine

Washington
1226

En-Claire.

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution :—

No 1 Dept

Copies to :—

Stafford Smith
Colonial Office

Restricted
Immediate

Following for Martin from Hafford
Smith. Your Telegram No. 3030.
[Illegal immigration].

We have consulted Foreign
office who agree that there would
be advantage in making the
full statement before United
Nations. While I understand
you hold the view that little
definite action can be expected
from U.N.O. we feel that it is
as well that the full facts
should be made known to as
wide an audience as possible.
Draft for Secretary of State has
been sent to you by 15-days
air bag. Draft deliberately sets
out case in full detail and
at considerable length, so that
you can cut it to suit your
requirements. I hope it will
serve.

RECEIVED IN O.B.

30 OCT 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

F. O.,

194

Despatched 8.55 P M.

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Restricted.
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK. 7

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations

No. 3709.

29th October 1947. D. 8.55 p.m. 29th October, 1947
Repeated to High Commissioner Palestine,
Washington No. 11226.

IMMEDIATE.
RESTRICTED.

Your telegram No. 3030. [Illegal Immigration].

Following for Martin from Trafford Smith.

We have consulted Foreign Office who agree that there would be advantage in making the full statement before United Nations. While I understand you hold the view that little definite action can be expected from United Nations we feel that it is as well that the full facts should be made known to as wide an audience as possible. Draft for Secretary of State has been sent to you by today's air bag. Draft ~~deliberately~~ sets out case in full detail and at considerable length so that you can cut it to suit your requirements. I hope it will serve.

O:O

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Cypher/OTP

24 OCT 1947
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 3030.

D. 1.02. p.m. 23rd October
1947.

23rd October 1947.

R. 7.29. p.m. 23rd October
1947.

Repeated to High Commissioner Palestine,
Washington.

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Following for Trafford Smith Colonial Office from
Martin.

[Begins]

Reference paragraph 1 of my telegram No. 2953.
Illegal immigration.

It has been suggested that we should not ignore
the value which might accrue from publicity which we
should obtain here by a frank and full statement before
United Nations on this subject. American opinion knows
extremely little, for example, about the organised traffic
through the Black Sea ports.

2. There may be an opportunity to make such a
statement when the Palestine Committee comes to consider
the draft resolution about illegal immigration. This will
not be until after the sub-committees examining the
proposals for partition and for a unitary state respectively
have reported to the main committee, i.e. not before the
29th October and probably a little later. If the suggestion
finds favour could you please let me have a draft for
submission to the Secretary of State, describing in
appropriate detail the nature of the illegal traffic and
our difficulties.

[Ends].

Foreign Office please pass High Commissioner Jerusalem
as my telegram No. 109.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for
Trafford Smith and repetition to High Commissioner Jerusalem.]

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E 9961

9

1947

25 OCT

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 9961/48/31

Legation
Stockholm

29/

15 Oct
25 -

View on Jewish Problem

Refer Stockholm dispatch 249 (E 8704/48/31)
 Transmit copy of letter from Professor
 Norbert Wollgast of 12 Sept.
 being views of the greater part of
 intelligentsia who do not agree with
 views put forward by Tans in previous
 correspondence

Last Paper

9949

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8 6.0.

Nov 5

(Action
completed)

(Index)

J. E. H. 11

H. J. 11/18

Next Paper

E 9972

(Minutes.)

This is a sensible letter

Northern Dept.

Inf. Policy Dept.

News Dept.

copy co.

[Signature]
 (J. E. CABLE)
 27/10

Yes

J. E. H. 3

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E 9961

15th ^{25 OCT} October 194.....

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September 1947.

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TRANSLATION:

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should/

In view of all these unfortunate happenings I consider it all the more my duty to point out that there is anyway still a considerable Jewish intelligentsia which regards such happenings soberly and is prepared loyally to cooperate with Britain in an attempt to find, if not a solution of the whole Jewish problem, at any rate a speedy means of dealing with the Jewish refugee question. Moreover, connected with this is the restitution of Jewish private and public property lost in Germany and other countries which could be used for financing the emigration of Jewish refugees on a large scale.

I am aware that under the present economic circumstances it is idle to request that too much time should be spent on the Jewish question but at the same time consider that by my contribution I can serve both Jewish and British interests. I have just returned from a trip to your country and elsewhere and am fully convinced that in spite of certain regrettable occurrences (which could however be anticipated, in view of the indefensible policy of Jewish terrorist organisations) the British people is anything but anti-Semitic. I realise that far worse things would have occurred anywhere else in similar circumstances but know, too, that the sympathies which have suddenly manifested themselves in Poland, Czechoslovakia, France and recently in "Ny Dag" in Stockholm are dictated by purely political motives and have nothing to do with friendship for the Jews, and do not think that Jews could find greater help anywhere than in British democracy with its wealth of traditions.

I beg to submit the above to you and the British Government and to express the hope that all recent regrettable developments may cease so that they may not end in a catastrophe for most of Jewry.

Stockholm 12th September, 1947

Signed. Norbert Wohlgemuth.

Fil.kand.Wohlgemuth.
Segeltorp.

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140/47)

Stockholm

15th October

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**Jewish problem: views of
greater part of the Intelligentsia:**

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Pièce . . . 61831 . . .

E 9973

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<p>1347</p> <p>517</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E10004 /G</p> <p>15</p>
<p>E10004 /48/31/6</p> <p>Ankara</p> <p>Chancery</p> <p>to E Dep</p> <p>18/247/47</p> <p>dated 16 Oct</p> <p>Received</p>	<p>Illegal immigrants in the Black Sea: Refoulement question</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E9473</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>Copies to: c.o. (Mr. Higham)</p> <p>adly. (Mr. Doodds)</p> <p>Cabinet Office (bdr. washed)</p>	
<p>References</p> <p>E89.2 /48/9</p>	<p>This does not tell us much, but it hardly seems worth taking the matter any further, since the possibility of "refoulement" being carried out is remote.</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>W.D.H. 1/11</p> <p>Southern Dept.</p> <p>Mr. [Signature]</p>	
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>8x.c.o</p> <p>Adly</p> <p>10/11</p> <p>November 5.</p>	<p>[Signature]</p> <p>(J.E. CABLE)</p> <p>30/10</p> <p>Port. 30</p>	
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>1074</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>1074</p>	
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FO 371 / 61831

27 OCT 1947

18/247/47.

Dear Department,

Your letter E.8912/48/G of the 3rd October about the possibility of applying the "refoulement" doctrine to illegal Jewish immigrants from the Black Sea.

2. There does not seem to be any article of the Montreux Convention which specifically covers the presence of armed guards on a merchant vessel, but we ~~would~~ suppose that it is possible that the Turkish Government would claim that the presence of armed guards turned the merchant vessel into an auxiliary vessel (paragraph 6 of Annex II of the Convention). We cannot, however, foretell what the reactions of the Turks would be without asking them, and we presume that you do not wish us at present to advertise the fact that you are considering the possibility of sending these illegal immigrants back to the Black Sea.

Yours ever,

ANKARA CHANCERY

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON S.W.1.

British Embassy,
Ankara.
16th October 1947.

Reference

EO 371 / 61831

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<p>518 1947</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E10005 / G</p> <p>17</p>
<p>E10005 / 48 / 31 / G</p> <p>Sir C. Tennant</p> <p>Stockholm</p> <p>286</p> <p>Dated 10 Oct</p> <p>Received 27 Oct.</p>	<p>Illegal immigration from Stockholm.</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E10004</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>Copies to: C.O. } usual</p> <p>M.I.5 } names</p> <p>Belmont Office }</p>	
<p>References</p> <p>EY008 / 48 / G</p> <p>EB518 / 48 / 31</p>	<p>This is by no means unsatisfactory, since the Swedes have so far done more than they promised to.</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>Northern Dept. 6/10/47</p> <p>27/10</p>	
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>8) C.O.</p> <p>M.I.5</p> <p>Colony 071</p> <p>Nov. 4th. 00.</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25/11</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>W.H.</p>	
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FO 371 / 61831

No. 286.
(54/153/47)

British Embassy
Stockholm.
10th October, 1947. 18

E10005

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 572 of July 31st and to Mr. Henderson's despatch No. 190 of July 9th, enclosing a copy of a note addressed to the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of illegal immigration into Palestine, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the reply which I have now received from the Director of the Juridical Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. The reply is careful, and in fact does not say as much as Mr. Engzell has told my Counsellor in conversation. He professes to be asking the Police and the Aliens Commission periodically for any news they may have of plans for an exodus of any considerable number of Jews at one time and to have received only negative replies. It will be recollected too (see my telegram under reference) that Monsieur Undén told me verbally that he thought it would be possible to go beyond the strict principles laid down by the legal experts.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

C. B. Ferram

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, P.C., M.P.
etc., etc., etc.,

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Enclosure to Stockholm despatch No. 286 of 10th October.

MINISTÈRE DES
AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

Stockholm le 2 octobre 1947

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

En me référant à Votre lettre en date du 9 juillet 1947 à Son Excellence Tage Erlander Premier Ministre à titre de Ministre des Affaires Étrangères a.i. concernant l'immigration illégale en Palestine, j'ai l'honneur de porter à Votre connaissance ce qui suit.

Le Gouvernement suédois est prêt autant que les lois le permettent à tâcher à empêcher dans le pays des mesures visant à l'immigration illégale en Palestine. Comme il a déjà été souligné au cours des entretiens qui ont eu lieu sur ce sujet entre le Ministère et Votre Ambassade, les moyens d'action du Gouvernement sont pourtant limités. C'est ainsi que la loi suédoise ne permet pas d'empêcher les étrangers de quitter librement le pays sans préciser le lieu de destination. Les autorités suédoises ne peuvent non plus empêcher un étranger de partir à moins que celui-ci ait commis de crime en Suède.

Vous avez bien voulu attirer mon attention aux bateaux employés par les immigrants pour les transports en Palestine en observant que ces bateaux n'auraient pas satisfait aux conditions stipulées dans les conventions internationales de Londres du 31 mai 1929 pour le sauvegarde de la vie humaine en mer et du 5 juillet 1930 sur les lignes de charge. À ce sujet l'autorité compétente suédoise, l'Administration central du Commerce a fait un rapport, dont le contenu principal a été communiqué au Chargé d'Affaires Monsieur Henderson le 3 août dernier. Il en ressort que les stipulations des lois suédoises fixent certaines limites à l'intervention des autorités contre les bateaux se trouvant en Suède.

Enfin l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a fait observer au Ministère que dans le port de Gothembourg se trouvent un bateau le "San Basilio" et dans celui de Stockholm, un autre le "San Spyridon" qui les deux paraîtraient suspects d'être destinés au trafic illégal en question. Un examen auquel a été soumis l'acquisition et la destination de ces bateaux a donné le résultat suivant.

Le "San Basilio" a été acheté à un armateur suédois par un citoyen grec, représentant d'un armateur panamien "Compania Carro Pando de Navigacion S.A.". On avait à cet occasion déclaré à l'armateur suédois que le bateau serait affecté au trafic de passagers et de transport sur la Méditerranée éventuellement au trafic entre l'Italie et l'Afrique du Nord. Après avoir quitté Stockholm, le bateau a dû, à cause d'avarie, faire escale à Gothembourg. Cependant, comme le navire n'est pas enregistré et ne possède pas les documents maritimes nécessaires, il ne peut pas acquitter les droits de sortie. Il n'est pas connu si l'acheteur grec pourra faire enregistrer le navire en Grèce. Le Ministère a invité les autorités de douane à le tenir au courant du développement de l'affaire.

Le/

Sir Bertrand Jerram,
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique
etc., etc., etc.,
Stockholm.

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Le "San Spyridon" a également été acheté par le citoyen grec sus-mentionné à l'armateur suédois pour être affecté au trafic de la Méditerranée. Le navire a été construit pour un très petit nombre de passagers, et il paraît exclu qu'il puisse sans arrangement spéciaux servir au transport d'un grand nombre de personnes. Lors de l'achat l'acheteur a fait une déclaration expresse que le navire ne serait pas employé au trafic illégal en question. Les réparations effectuées après l'achat paraissent indiquer que le navire soit employé à un trafic normal de passager. Le départ du bateau ne paraît pas encore actuel. En outre le Gouvernement suédois n'a pas connaissance des préparatifs en train en Suède pour l'immigration illégale en Palestine. Les autorités suédoises ont cependant été invitées à suivre avec attention ce qui pourrait se passer à ce sujet.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

Pour le Ministre:

Le Directeur de la Division Juridique,

(Signed) Gösta Engzell

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<p>519 1947</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>E10080/G</p> <p>28 OCT 1947</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>
<p>E10080/48/31/G</p> <p>Bucharest</p> <p>236</p> <p>dated 14 Oct</p> <p>Received 29 Oct</p>	<p>Pan Crescent + Pan York</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E10005</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Minutes)</p> <p>copies to C.O. (Mr. Higham)</p> <p>M.I.5 (Mr. Cohen)</p>	
<p>References</p> <p>E9234/48/C</p>	<p>Forther Dept.</p> <p>W.D.H.</p> <p>10/11</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30/10</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>8) C.O.</p> <p>W.I.5</p> <p>00.31.</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>2F/11</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>10/11</p>	
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No. 236 (349/170/47)

E10080

22

HIS Majesty's Minister at Bucharest.
presents his compliments to the Right Honourable Ernest
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British.....Legation,.....
.....Bucharest.....

17th October, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office telegram No. 1130 of October 15th,
1947, to Bucharest. Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note Verbale No. 125 of the 17th October, 1947, from British Legation, Bucharest, to the Roumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Requesting cessation of supply of materials to the ships "PAN CRESCENT" and "PAN YORK" at the Port of Constantza.

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British Legation,

Bucharest.

No. 125.
(349/170/47)

The British Legation presents its compliments to the Rumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to its Note Verbale No. 120, to which no reply has yet been received, has the honour to draw the serious attention of the Rumanian Government to the preparations being made at Constanza on board the Panamanian ships "PAN CRESCENT" and "PAN YORK" to fit these vessels out for the carriage to Palestine of an important number of Jewish illegal immigrants.

2. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has instructed this Legation to point out that the supply to these ships of timber and other material with which bunks and other internal conveniences for the carriage of these illegal immigrants are being constructed, is, in fact, collusion in a traffic which is contrary to international law and custom and participation in a traffic which has been condemned by the United Nations Organization which is, at this very time, dealing with this problem. The contention that these ships are being supplied with timber on a purely commercial basis and for normal trade is untenable in view of the extensive work that has been, and is going on in these ships, a fact which can easily be controlled by the Rumanian port authorities at Constanza.

3. The British Legation is instructed to inform the Rumanian Government that it attaches the highest importance to the prevention of the departure of these vessels with illegal immigrants from Rumania, and requests that no further assistance in the form of timber, provisions or fuel should be given to these ships which are, whatever may be maintained to the contrary, preparing to sail from the Black Sea with illegal Jewish emigrants bound for Palestine.

Bucharest, 17th October, 1947.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Bucharest.



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Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61831*

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Piece 61831

E10083/48/31

and closed until.....1998

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FO 371 / 61831

1947 522	Palestine EASTERN	E10084/G 26
E10084/48/231/6 Sofia 296 Dated 27 00 Received 29 00.	Jewish illegal immigration	
Last Paper E10083	Copy to C.O. (Minutes) (Mr. Higham) See within	
References E9764/48/5	1. Sofia 297 17 00.	
(Print)		
(How disposed of) 82.0 7th Nov.	In para. 4 of the record of his interview with the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Stendale Bennett reports that he told the Minister that the maintenance of Jewish illegal immigrants in Palestine ^{Lyons} was a charge on H.M.G. This is incorrect. The cost is met by the Govt. of Palestine from their own revenues and thus, indirectly, by the inhabitants of Palestine themselves. It might be worth while to point this out to Sofia.	
(Action completed) 27 11	(Index) Southern Dept. 27 11	(J.E. CABLE)
Next Paper	I don't think we need strain the point JB NW. 3	

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Reference
FO 371/61831

No. 297
27/122/47

27 62 100 147

THE British Minister at Sofia
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Legation,.....

Sofia.

17th October, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Telegram to Foreign Office No. 1312

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy letter dated 17/10/47 to Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs	Jewish illegal immigration
Copies to Bucharest	No. 10
Jerusalem	No. 1
Washington	No. 58
Ukdel, N.Y.	No. 2

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

Reference
FO 371/61831

17th October 1947

07/12/87

by our Minister.

At my interview with Your Excellency on October 18th, I gave you orally some facts about the two vessels "Paducah" and "Northlands" which you may like to have in writing.

2. It is clear that these vessels, whatever their pretended destination when they left Bulgarian ports, in fact proceeded direct to Palestine for the purpose of disembarking Jewish illegal immigrants there. The two vessels entered Palestinian waters on October 2nd. The "Yadush" was carrying 1,895 would-be illegal immigrants and the "Northlands" 2,054. None of these persons could produce a passport valid for Palestine. Those on board the "Yadush" had embarked at Bourgas having apparently travelled there by train from Bucharest. Of the passengers on board the "Northlands", about 2,500 were embarked at Bourgas between September 2nd and September 23rd and the remainder are understood to have been embarked at Varna on September 25th. Like those on board the "Yadush" they appear to have come from Bucharest and to have entered Bulgaria on a collective visa. A large number of them were in possession of identity cards issued by the Bucharest offices either of the Trans-Isitrian Committee for Deportees and Refugee Jews or the Association of Trans-Isitrian Deportees.

8. I also informed Your Excellency that two more vessels destined for use in this illicit traffic, the "Pan Grogan" and the "Pan York", have gone to Constantia. There is reason to suppose, however, that they may try to embark more Jews for Palestine from Bulgarian ports after leaving Constantia. It was for that reason that I appealed once more to Your Excellency for the help of the Bulgarian Government and pressed for special vigilance and action on the part of the Bulgarian authorities with a view to preventing the embarkation at Bulgarian ports of persons endeavouring to enter Palestine.

4. I have since received a telegram instructing me to impress upon the Bulgarian Government that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom attach the highest importance to preventing the departure of either of these vessels with illegal immigrants for Palestine.

His Excellency
 Monsieur Kimen Georgiev,
 Vice President of the Council of Ministers
 and Minister for Foreign Affairs,
 Sofia.

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Reference

FO 371/61831

No. 296
(27/121/47)

30

HIS Majesty's Minister at Sofia
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British...Legation.....

.....Sofia.....

17th October....., 1947.....

Reference to previous correspondence :
Sofia telegram No. 1312

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Record of interview on 15/10/47 with Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs	Illegal Jewish immigration
Copy to Bucharest No. 9	

3470 20725 (4)

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Reference
FO 371/61831

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I pressed the Minister for Foreign Affairs further today on the subject of illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine. I told him that the "Paducah" and the "Northlands", about which I had made representations at our last interview, had gone straight from Bulgaria to Palestine and had arrived in Palestinian waters on October 2nd. It had been established that the "Paducah" was carrying 1385 illegal Jewish immigrants and the "Northlands" 2264. So far as the "Paducah" was concerned these people had embarked at Burgas, having come from Bucharest. The "Northlands" had embarked about 2500 at Burgas between September 2nd and September 23rd, and was stated to have taken on the rest of the immigrants, who had come from Bucharest, at Varna on September 26th. In each case the immigrants had apparently travelled on a collective visa.

2. The Minister for Foreign Affairs remarked that there had evidently been a falsification in the declared destination, and he asked if I had any information as to the nationality of the immigrants and their origin. I said that the immigrants had been of Roumanian, Hungarian, Polish, Czech, Austrian and German origin, and it was clear that the collecting point had been Bucharest. But these facts were surely known to the Bulgarian authorities, who must have been fully aware of them when the embarkation took place. A collective visa could not have been issued without the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said that in point of fact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not deal with passports and visas. Any application would go direct to the Ministry of the Interior. I suggested that in any event the first line of enquiry was to find out who had granted these collective visas and to ensure that no such visa was granted in future. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he would certainly take up the question.

3. I said that it was not merely a question of what had happened in the past. The future was more important. Two large vessels, the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York" had gone to Constantza, where they were understood to be embarking Jews. But there was reason to believe that they might try to embark more Jews on their way south in Bulgarian ports. I must appeal, therefore, for the help of the Bulgarian Government and press for vigilance and assistance on the part of the Bulgarian authorities to prevent embarkation at Bulgarian ports. The Minister for Foreign Affairs asked if I had any reason to suppose that illegal Jewish immigrants were on their way into Bulgaria. I said I had no information on this subject. But in the case of the "Padueah" and the "Northlands" the immigrants had come in by train and it was surely a matter for enquiry from the Bulgarian frontier authorities. In any case I stressed that the immigrants could not travel without some form of Bulgarian visa and the first step seemed to be to refuse any application for such a visa which might be made.

4. The Minister for Foreign Affairs asked what was being done with the immigrants who had arrived in the "Paducah" and the "Northlands". I said that to the best of my knowledge they had been sent to Cyprus. The Minister for

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Reference

FO 371/64831

Foreign Affairs asked who was looking after them there. Was it a charge on the British Government? I said that to the best of my knowledge and belief it was. I then spoke of the conditions in which these immigrants were sent. They generally sold up their belongings in Central Europe and embarked on their journey on the basis of false promises. The organisers of the traffic knew perfectly well that they would not be admitted into Palestine. Furthermore the immigrants were sent to Palestine generally under extremely bad conditions. The whole thing was a disgraceful racket, and I felt sure that the Bulgarian Government would not wish to be associated with it.

5. The Minister of Foreign Affairs assured me that he would take up the matter at once and so far as he personally was concerned he would do everything possible to stop this traffic.

J.C. STENDALE BENNETT

15th October 1947

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Reference

FO 371/61831

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<p>523</p>	<p>1 Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E10132 /G</p> <p>33</p>
<p># E10132/48/31/G</p> <p>chan cety</p> <p>Buchanan</p> <p>to E Dep</p> <p>349/128/47</p> <p>Dated 3 Dec</p> <p>Received 20 Dec.</p>	<p>S.S. Lokina</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E10084</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>copy to M.I.5 (Mr. Lohm)</p> <p>31/10</p>	
<p>References.</p> <p>E10084/48/C.</p>		
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8) M12 ✓</p> <p>7th Nov</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>2F8</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>16/11</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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E 10173/48/31

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Reference **FO** 371/61831

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<p>1947</p> <p>525</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E10179 /G</p> <p>31 OCT 1947 36</p>
<p>E10179/48/31/6</p> <p>Paris</p> <p>251 Saw.</p> <p>Dated 26 Oct</p> <p>Received 3.00.</p>	<p>Ellegatowich immigration:</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E10173</p> <p>References.</p> <p>E9817/48/9</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>The proof of the fudding will be in the action taken. We have had many assurances before.</p> <p>Western Dept.</p> <p>W. E. CABLE</p> <p>31/10</p> <p>JB ant. 31</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p> <p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>Being copied</p> <p>8/11/47 November 5.</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>D.F. 4/11</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>W. E. C.</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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Reference

FO 371/61831

E
En Clair

Green
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

37

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

31 OCT 1947

Mr. Duff Cooper.
No. 251 SAVING.
October 26th, 1947. R. October 30th, 1947.

Repeated to Marseilles No. 14 Saving.

My telegram No. 969.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

Council of Foreign Ministers have accepted proposal described in paragraph 3 and visas for Venezuela, Bolivia, Columbia and Ethiopia on individual passports will now have to be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for scrutiny.

2. This measure and the decision that only sufficient bunkers to reach the next port will be granted to ships calling at French ports represent notable advance towards meeting our request.

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31 OCT 1947

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E 10181

E 10182

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FO <i>371/61831</i>					

<p>525</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E10249 /G</p> <p>NOV 1947</p>
<p>E10249 148/31</p> <p>Paris</p> <p>906</p> <p>Dated 27 Oct</p> <p>Received 3 Nov.</p>	<p>Suspect Shipping: Yildesan 39</p> <p>and Giovanni Nava.</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E10193</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>Western Dept. 1/6.11.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> 4/11</p>	
<p>References</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25/11</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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Reference

FO 371 / 61831

Paris, le 24 octobre 1947.

Des échanges de vues ont eu lieu ces jours derniers entre M. Ashley CLARKE et M. BOUSQUET concernant les deux nouveaux navires suspects de devoir se livrer au trafic des émigrants clandestins (Ylderan et Giovanni Maria). Au cours de ces échanges de vues il a été fait état, du côté britannique, des préoccupations qu'à la suite du chargement en mazout et en vivres du Pan-York, qui a quitté récemment Marseille à destination de Constanza, les mouvements du Ylderan et du Giovanni Maria causent au Gouvernement britannique.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a l'honneur de faire savoir à l'Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne que les mesures suivantes sont actuellement appliquées, par décision du Conseil des Ministres, en matière de contrôle des navires étrangers touchant les ports français et des passagers de ces navires:

1°/ Contrôle des certificats de navigation conformément à la Convention de 1929 sur la sauvegarde de la vie humaine en mer et à la loi française de 1933;

2°/ Chargement des bâtiments en mazout, charbon et vivres assuré seulement jusqu'au prochain port d'escale indiqué par le bâtiment en cause;

3°/ Contrôle de tous les visas d'entrée sur passeports collectifs et des visas d'entrée sur passeports individuels à destination du Vénézuéla, de la Colombie, de l'Abyssinie et de la Bolivie, le visa de sortie français ne pouvant être délivré que si le visa d'entrée dans l'un des quatre pays d'accueil ci-dessus est considéré comme valable.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères recevra directement des Préfets communication des noms et des renseignements d'identité des étrangers bénéficiaires de passeports individuels comportant visa d'entrée à destination des quatre pays précités.

Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne

Il/

à P A R I S

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FO 371/61831

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Il se mettra aussitôt en rapport avec les Légations à Paris de ces pays. L'enquête du Ministère et des Légations sera effectuée pendant un délai maximum de 8 jours aux fins d'établir si les visas sont authentiques ou falsifiés. Les Préfets refuseront le visa de sortie à tout étranger détenteur d'un passeport, dont le visa d'entrée dans l'un ou plusieurs des pays précités, serait reconnu falsifié.

D'autre part, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a mis au point une procédure aux termes de laquelle les consulats de France en Allemagne, en Autriche et dans les pays d'Europe orientale, ne sont autorisés à délivrer le visa de transit à travers la France sur passeport collectif comme sur passeport individuel que sur autorisation préalable de Paris. Cette autorisation n'est accordée aux Consulats précités qu'après remise au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la copie d'un document émanant de la Légation ou d'un Consulat en France du Pays de destination intéressé attestant que le demandeur pourra obtenir, sur présentation de ce document, dont l'original est conservé à la Légation ou au Consulat précité, l'apposition du visa d'entrée dans le pays considéré. Dans le cas où pour une raison quelconque, l'autorisation ne serait pas honorée par la Légation ou le Consulat en France du pays de destination intéressé, l'étranger se trouverait en France en situation irrégulière et le visa de sortie français ne pourrait, faute de visa d'entrée dans un pays d'accueil, lui être accordé.

Si l'étranger tentait d'utiliser un faux visa d'entrée dans l'un des quatre pays ci-dessus mentionnés pour obtenir le visa de sortie français, cette fraude se trouverait déjouée par l'application de la procédure de contrôle ci-dessus indiquée./.

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Reference

FO 371/61831

<p>1947</p> <p>529</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E1024, /G</p> <p>43</p> <p>3 NOV 1947</p>
<p>E1024, /48/31/6</p> <p>S of S</p> <p>Conversation</p> <p>Dated 1 Nov</p> <p>Received 3 Nov.</p>	<p>Illegal immigration: Conversation with U.S. Ambassador.</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E10182</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>Print: King and Cabinet.</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>X</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>245) W'lon NO 1955</p> <p>1 Nov</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25"/11</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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2. ? should this be included in the Volume. *m*

Green Division. *JDMW.10*

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Foreign Office
1st November, 1947.

My Lord,

J.H.

H.M. Ambassador,
WASHINGTON.

When the American Ambassador saw me on the 30th October, he mentioned the question of illegal immigration into Palestine.

2. I had previously given him a short memorandum, of which a copy is enclosed, regarding the two ships at present in Constanza, and the "Colonel F.C. Johnson" which is being fitted out at Norfolk, U.S.A.

The United States Ambassador told me that the question of the ships at Constanza was being looked into. ^{The matter of} As regards the

"Colonel Johnson", the matter was being investigated by the U.S. authorities taken up afresh. Mr. Douglas was

unable to say what the United States Government would be able to do. ^{I got the} The impression

indications were, however, that the Americans were now taking a much more serious view of the problem of illegal immigration, in view of my statement that it was quite impossible to expect us to deal with this question, even if we agreed to assist in the implementation of any agreed solution of the Palestine problem, or in any solution proposed by the United Nations.

(Sd.) ERNEST BEVIN

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FO 371/61831

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Secret.
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J.H.
Draft.

H.M. Ambassador,
WASHINGTON.

No.....

Print:

Key + Cabinet

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1st November 1947.

My Lord,

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2. I had previously given him a short memorandum, of which a copy is enclosed, regarding the two ships at present in Constanza, and the "Colonel F.C. Johnson"

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it was quite impossible to expect us to

deal with this question, even if we

agreed to assist in the implementation of

any agreed solution of the Palestine

problem, or in any solution proposed by the

United Nations.

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FO 371/61831

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47

MEMORANDUM.

The s.s. "Pan Crescent" and "Pan YORK" are ships of approximately 5,000 tons each, and are estimated to be likely to embark about 8,250 Jewish illegal immigrants each. They are under Panama flag and owned by the F. and B. Shipping Company of Panama, whose agent and effective director is Nathan Cohen of New York. A large proportion of the crew of each ship is American.

The principal ship at present suspected of being equipped for the traffic is the s.s. "Colonel Frederick C. Johnson" of about 2,000 tons at present at Norfolk, U.S. She is being fitted out by the same people who were responsible for sending the s.s. "President Warfield".

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FO 371 / 61831					

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MEMORANDUM.

48

The s.s. "Pan Crescent" and "Pan YORK" are ships of approximately 5,000 tons each, and are estimated to be likely to embark about 8,250 Jewish illegal immigrants each. They are under Panama flag and owned by the F. and B. Shipping Company of Panama, whose agent and effective director is Nathan Cohen of New York. A large proportion of the crew of each ship is American.

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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> 532 1947 </div> <div> Palestine EASTERN </div> <div> E10382/G 6 NOV 1947 50 </div> </div>	
E10382/48/31/G Rome 2093 dated 5 Nov Received 6 Nov.	S.S. Yildesan
Last Paper. E10329 References. E9818/48/G, E9150/48/G.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> RT J 10/10 Southern Dept. </div> <div> (Minutes.) </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> 11 P distribution JBMV.7 </div>
(Print.) (How disposed of.) 311P	
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> (Action completed.) 5/10/ </div> <div style="flex: 1;"> (Index.) W.H. </div> </div>	
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Reference
FO 371/61831

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

51

R: 1.00 p.m. 5th November, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

Turkish Embassy have informed us that they have had instructions to secure return of Yildiran to Turkey. This ship is now at Civitavecchia.

2. They point out there were complications, since although Turkish owner of Yildiran seemed anxious to co-operate, ship appeared to be under the financial control of the notorious Itale-Jewish & Andria group. To make certain of her return it would also be necessary to engage a new crew.

5. It was suggested to Turkish Embassy that the best plan in the meantime would be to detain the ship at Civitavecchia in manner indicated in paragraph 2 (b) of your telegram 906 to Angora. They promised to approach Italian authorities accordingly and assured us of their desire to prevent ship from engaging in illegal immigration.

G G G G

[illegible]

Answer:

FO 371 / 61831

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Reference

FO 371 / 61831

COPY.

Ministère Royal des Affaires Etrangères
Roumanie. *S-5*

No. 68.526/11.119 D.C.

NOTE VERBALE.

Le Ministère Royal des Affaires Etrangères
présente ses compliments à la Légation de Grande
Bretagne et a l'honneur d'accuser réception de ses notes
No. 118,120 et 125 (349/170/47) concernant l'arrivée des
bateaux "PAN CRESCENT" et "PAN YORK" dans le port de
Constanza, et de l'informer qu'il n'a pas manqué de
faire les démarches nécessaires auprès des autorités
roumaines compétentes, à toutes fins utiles.

Bucharest, 14 22 Octobre 1947.

LA LEGATION DE GRANDE BRETAGNE.



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Reference

FO 371/61831

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<p>535</p> <p>1047</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E10441 /G</p> <p>56</p>
<p>E10441 1 48 18 31/6</p> <p>Bucharest</p> <p>1291</p> <p>Dated 6 Nov</p> <p>Received 7 Nov</p>	<p>Illegal immigration ships in Roumanian waters.</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E10384</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p>	
<p>References.</p>	<p>Mr Cable 1/4</p> <p>News 1/4</p> <p>JD. Mr. 7</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8) 11P.</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>2F 13/11</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>1404.</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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Reference

FO 371/61831

ADMIRALTY.

12 NOV 1957

D. 11.5 a.m. 6th November 1947.

R. 11.45 a.m. 6th November 1947.

Angora,
Istanbul and
Sofia.

Following for Admiralty repeated Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F., Naval Attaché Angora, SO(I) Istanbul, SO(I) LEM from Naval Attaché Bucharest.

[Begins].

Reference announcement in London Press [gps. omitted] November 3rd to November 4th of report from Turkey that illegal immigration ships now in Reumanian waters are being fitted with naval guns.

2. No confirmation available other than gossip overheard at Constantza on October 6th to October 8th that Pan York, "would be equipped with guns if this were possible as prospective passengers were resolved to fight hard".

3. Both ships are still at Constantza and there is still no definite indication of intended place of embarkation. Bucharest telegram No.1159, not to all addressees refers.

4. Admiralty please pass to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F., and SO(I) LEM. T.O.O. 061030.

[Ends].

Foreign Office please pass to Angera and Istanbul as my telegrams Nos.39 and 24 respectively.

[Repeated to Angora and Istanbul by Foreign Office.]

W:W:W:W:W

NOV 1947

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Reference

FO 371/61831

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1947

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PALESTINE

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FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E10454/48/31.

J. E. Boulton

Paris

to M. Balle.

3. Nov

8 -

M. PETERI LIOT and family, Ex President Warfield

Transmit copy of letter to J. E. Boulton, Berlin,
72/933/47, enclosing copy of letter from the
Petri Liot, who with his wife and family
disembarked from the "Empire River" at
Port de Boue and now requests that his
belongings, which were taken from him at
Hafia, should be returned to him.

Last Paper.

10441

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. Nigam. 80.

W.D. - M04

Nov. 13

(Action
completed.)

J. E. Boulton 20/11

(Index)

29/9/48

Next Paper.

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entry.
BRITISH EMBASSY,
PARIS.

59
3rd November, 1947

10154

3 NOV

*With the Compliments
of His Majesty's Embassy.*

to: James Cable, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office. S.W.1.

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60

10

of the

Bouc,

61

Ma famille et moi-même étions sur l'Exodus dans le but d'atteindre notre "Foyer National" placés par votre haute bienveillance, nous avons dû revenir hélas! devant Marseille dans les circonstances bien connues.

Ma femme et mon enfant âgé de 6 ans ayant subi de nombreuses privations en séjournant sur le bateau "Empire Rival", ma femme dans le tumulte du 18 juillet 1947 a été contusionnée au sein gauche, son état s'étant aggravé nous avons demandé de quitter le bateau et nous sommes débarqués à Port Bouc le 31 juillet, 1947.

Les autorités anglaises d'Haïffa confisquèrent en totalité nos produits alimentaires consistant en conserves, mon outillage de bourreleine indispensable pour mon travail, nos ustensiles ménagers, thermos, assiettes, couteau, etc., etc...

D'autre part ils m'ont également pris 3 sacs de camping contenant nos objets vestimentaires et de toilette, ces derniers devant nous être restitués en quittant le bateau; l'employé assurant le service des bagages m'a déclaré son impossibilité de remuer les 15 à 1800 colis entassés pour me donner les miens. Nos trois sacs comportaient notre adresse et (sic) nous ainsi que le récépissé délivré par les Autorités Anglaises.

Nous avons donc mis pied à terre dans un seul vêtement d'été. Ma femme ayant dû subir une intervention chirurgicale à Paris vient de quitter l'hôpital dans un état d'extrême faiblesse.

En obeissant aux formalités des Autorités au moment de quitter le bateau, je vous prie Monsieur le Consul de bien vouloir me faire restituer mes objets perdus dont voici le détail:

2 grands sacs de camping (l'un 1500)	3,000
1 plus petit "	1,000
3 costumes d'hommes tissu anglais (15,000)	45,000
3 paires de chausseurs hommes (1500)	4,500
1 brodequin	2,000
6 chemises d'hommes (400)	2,400
6 caleçons (300)	1,800
chaussettes, faux cols, mouchoirs, cache cols pullover etc.	3,000
1 pardessus	12,000
1 manteau fourrure 3/4 en renard argenté	25,000
1 renard argenté	9,000
2 robes de lainage (10,000)	20,000
4 robes en soie (4,000)	16,000
4 paires de chausseurs femme (1000)	4,000
6 chemises soie (1500)	9,000
6 combinaisons (500)	3,000
bas, cache cols, pullover etc.	4,000
1 robe de chambre en soie	6,000
1 manteau lainage	6,000
2 vêtements lainage pour enfants (1500)	3,000
2 vêtements tricotés (1000) "	2,000
2 paires de chausseurs (600)	1,200
Lingerie diverses d'enfant, pyjamas, pullover,	3,000
3 couvertures en laine (1500)	4,500

Cent quatre vingt dix mille quatre cents

190,400

Dans/

74

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62
Dans l'attente d'une réponse favorable, veuillez agréer
Monsieur le Consul, l'assurance de ma haute considération

La Croix St. Ouen
1947 27 X.

Péter Lipót

Mon adresse 15/X - 15/X1

Centre d'accueil U.Y.R.E.
Hotel: Chateau du Bac,
La Croix St. Ouen
Dept. Oise.

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***delete as necessary**

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E

E 10584

12 NOV

1947

PALESTINE

65

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 10584/45/51

Channing

Beckman

14/53/47

H. Nov
12

French Affairs, Roumania.
Rfr Beckman letter 14/47/47 (E-8378/48/31)
enclosed for the following report by Kendall
on French Affairs, Roumania which provides
some useful background to illegal immigration
from that country.

Last Paper.

E 10544

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Mr. Kevin Jones
U.S. Embassy
from Mr. Beck
Nov 21

Mr. Channing
Beckman
Nov 21

Mr. Channing. W. Van
Nov. 21

Copy. " Moscow
U.K. Act, New York
Nov 22

P.T.O.

(Action
completed.)

TE 11/12

(Index.)

11/14

Next Paper.

(4460)

E 10593

(Minutes.)

this is just the sort of stuff
which Mr. Kevin Jones of the
U.S. Embassy is always asking
me for as ammunition with
his Court. on illegal immigration.

Is there any objection
to my giving him a copy
of the memo. without statement
of source and asking Wachs.
Embassy to do the same?
No objection as far as Southern
Dept. are concerned
Mr. Halford) first

N.B. I think Mr. Kendall
is P.C.O.
Mr. K. has no connexion
with P.C.D. or anything like it.
I sh. like to have copies of the
the paper below. if I may.
We
Nov. 12
Nov. 15/47

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Pt. draft

Drinks

Mr. Deane
Nov. 19

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Carb. Offices

usual names

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Robertson

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Deaf

Dec. 2

Reference

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British Legation,
Bucharest.

4th November, 1947.

74/53/47.

67
E 10584
12 NOV

8378/48/1
Dear Department,

Our letter to you No. 74/47/47
of 26th August.

We enclose a further interest-
ing report by Mr. Kendall on Jewish affairs in
Roumania, which provides some useful background
to illegal emigration from this country.

Yours ever,
CHANCERY.

Southern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON.



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2. The strength and duration of Jewish resistance to Communist encroachment depended to a large extent upon the ability of Dr. Filderman, the eminent Roumanian Jewish leader, to maintain both his freedom of action and personal liberty. His uncompromising attitude won him more sympathy than support from other Jewish leaders who lacked his courage and sagacity. Finding himself abandoned by all, he has withdrawn from public life and is, I understand, in imminent danger of arrest as a reactionary.

3. The Jewish population in Roumania is today in a privileged position. The American Joint Distribution Committee spend more on assistance and social services to Jews in Roumania than the Roumanian Government does on the Christian population. Medical supplies are available for Jews which cannot be procured for the rest of the country. The number of Jews in the secret and political police, State institutions, Universities and press is out of all proportion to the size of the Jewish Community in Roumania. Their arrogance, venality and vindictiveness exasperate the masses. This only makes the Jews still more concerned to remain in the good books of the Communist Party, the sole bulwark between them and an infuriated people, and impels them - to secure this end - to demonstrations of excessive zeal at the expense of the Christian and non-Communist population. And so more oil is poured on the fire.

4. Jewish affairs are now in the hands of upstarts and extremists, blended with a few craven remnants of the past whose fear for their personal safety has transformed them into the subservient tools of the Communist machine. The rank and file remain inarticulate.

5. Nobody knows better than the Zionists themselves that the present unnatural alliance between them and the Communists will last only so long as it serves Communist purposes. The Zionists realise the day will come, and perhaps very soon, when they will again become the target of Communist wrath against disintegrating international influences. The aim of the Zionists is, therefore, to get as many Jews out of Roumania before the thin ice on which they are skating gives way. There are some 450,000 Jews in Roumania at present, the largest national Jewish community in Europe, and should the dark curtain clamp down upon them, it would mean the isolation of this important Jewish population from Zionist national and political plans.

6. The alliance with the Communists must, therefore, be used without loss of time to despatch the greatest number of Jews from Roumania to territories where they will be at the disposal of Zionist policy. The steady exodus of Jews from Roumania to Austria, Italy and Germany must be increased and other outlets found. Mr. Schwartz, European Representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee, Mr. Moshe Sneh, member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, and Mr. Averbuch, organiser of illegal immigration into Palestine from Roumania, are at present in Bucharest discussing the ways and means to attain this end with the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

7. The Roumanian Communist Party wants to get rid of the majority of the Jews now in Roumania. It considers them to be non-

/assimilable

FO 371/61831

assimilable, inadapttable, and incorrigible racketeers and individualists. If by assisting their departure they can also present the West with yet another problem and lay hands on the very important Jewish assets in Roumania, then they will encourage the migration by every means in their power.

8. The alarm caused in Jewish circles at the announcement that Great Britain intended to relinquish the Palestine Mandate at an early date has made the question of the removal of Jews from Roumania a pressing one. A subtle propaganda is carried on among the Jews suggesting that the Communist Party will stiffen its attitude towards them when it has disposed of the Peasant and Liberal Parties. To lend verisimilitude to these rumours, Jews are arrested for "currency infringements" and "economic sabotage". Another widely-spread report that particularly affects the Jews is that there is to be another stabilisation of the lei next year accompanied by a capital levy. This war of nerves and the hardly suppressed hatred of the population has resulted in a fear psychosis which nothing will cure except new surroundings. I personally know of four cases where Jews, who have been in Roumania for three generations, have recently sold two industrial enterprises and a private bank for about 15% of their real value to the Communist Party to "get away before it is too late". They are going 'to Europe' and no amount of argument can influence their decision. The Jewish population will need no persuasion to go. It remains to be seen where and how the Zionists and Communists will send them.

9. Parallel with this steady infiltration of Jews into countries outside the Soviet 'commonwealth', the Zionists and Jewish extremists have revived the illegal traffic of Jews by sea from Roumania. This was foreshadowed in Bucharest letter 74/27/47 of 11th June to the Eastern Department and has developed into a serious problem. The steamers PADUCAH and NORTHLANDS took their Roumanian Jews from a Bulgarian port but the steamers PAN CRESCENT and PAN YORK, both at Constanza, intend to take about 14,000 Jews from Roumania to Palestine in the next few weeks.

10. The repeated energetic protests made by His Majesty's Minister at Bucharest have certainly had a temporary effect. I have been informed discreetly by a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Ministry has done its utmost to prevent the departure of these Jews taking place from Roumanian territory and that every available argument has been laboured to that effect. Moreover, there may be some truth in the report that the Dej-Maurer group of the Central Committee of the Communist Party has supported the Minister of Foreign Affairs in this matter contending that Roumanian participation in this traffic would cause such a deterioration in Anglo-Roumanian relations that all hope of the resumption of trade between the two countries would be wrecked. The Bodnaras-Luka group of the Central Committee, on the other hand, demand active Roumanian support of this traffic as a demonstration of Roumania's indifference to British opinion. Be that as it may, the ships have been held up for several weeks and departures have been postponed more than once.

11. Everything possible has been done to prevent these ships departing and good results have been obtained by fanning the fear of rigorous punishment prevailing among the non-Jewish members of the crews.

12. The next few months will undoubtedly see desperate efforts to move Jews out of Roumania on an even greater scale than in the past. It is difficult to see what more can be done to stop the illegal traffic by sea but pressure might be brought to bear on the Governments of neighbouring States better to secure their frontiers with Roumania to control, if not to stop, the overland movement that is now developing. At the present time the Hungarian frontier with

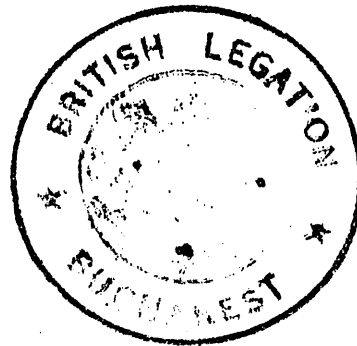
/Roumania

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OUT FILE

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Confidential.
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Open.

Draft letter to
Mr. Lewis Jones,
U. S. Embassy.

from JGSB

3 drafts

J. S. Beith
Nov. 19

[Signature]

19.11

RECEIVED IN DIVISION.	
20 NOV 1947	
SENT TO TYPE	20/11
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21 November, 1947.

My dear Lewis,

I think you will be interested in
the enclosed report which we have just
received from our Legation at Bucharest on
Jewish affairs in Roumania.
It is very relevant to our recent con-
versations about Jewish illegal immigration
from Eastern Europe.

Yours ever

(Sgd.) John Beith.

(J. G. S. Beith)

Mills

20.11

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OUT FILE

21st November, 1947.

No. R 10584/48/31
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Yours ever

(Sgd.) John Beith.
(J.G.B. Beith)

Mr. Lewis Jones,
United States Embassy,
1 Grosvenor Square,
W.1.

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2/ November, 1947.

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Open.

Draft.

Draft letter to

Chancery,
Bucharest.

Dear Chancery,

Many thanks for your letter of the 4th November enclosing a report by Mr. Kendall on Jewish affairs in Rumania.

2. This report provided us with most useful ammunition in our representations to the Americans on illegal immigration, and we are much indebted to Kendall for a ~~most~~ ^{very} valuable and interesting piece of work.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

JB Nov. 14

John Burrows

19. 18

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23 NOV 1947

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22/10

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24th November, 1947.

74

CONFIDENTIAL

Many thanks for your letter of the 4th November, enclosing a report by Mr. Kendall on Jewish affairs in Rumania.

This report provided us with most useful ammunition in our representations to the Americans on illegal immigration, and we are much indebted to Randall for a very valuable and interesting piece of work.

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

**The Chancery,
British Legation,
Bucharest.**

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Draft.

Draft letter to
Chancery,
Washington.

Copies to:

Chancery, Moscow.
U.K. Delegation,
New York.

13 Nov. 19

19.11

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20 NOV 1947	
20/11	22/11

OUT FILE *2.C*

21 November, 1947. *75*

Dear Chancery,

We send you herewith a copy of a report prepared in the British Legation at Bucharest on Jewish affairs in Rumania, which provides useful background on the present movement of Jewish illegal immigrants through that country.

2. We are communicating a copy of this report to the official in charge of Middle Eastern Affairs at the American Embassy in London, in response to his frequent requests for background of this kind. The report could hardly be better adapted for the enlightenment of the Americans, and we should, therefore, be grateful if you would do the same with the State Department.

3. We are sending copies of this letter and enclosure to the Chancery at Moscow and the United Kingdom Delegation at New York.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

MT/2

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

21st November, 1947.

(E 10584/48/31)
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We are sending copies of this letter and enclosures to the Chancery at Moscow and the United Kingdom Delegation at New York.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

**The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.**

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